

STRANGE AND CURIOUS THINGS THAT ARE ENCOUNTERED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF WORLD

SNAPSHOT OF A TREED BLACK BEAR.



In the Western States bears are hunted with packs of miscellaneous dogs, from which, when driven to an extremity, they sometimes try to escape by climbing up a tree. The black bear so clearly shown in the photograph has been compelled, by the scarcity of large timber, to seek refuge in a tree that hardly seems capable of supporting his

weight. A bear in this position is said to be "treed," and, of course, is an easy target for the bullet of the hunter. The photograph was taken by "Steve" Baxter, a well-known hunter and guide, whose headquarters are at Glenwood Springs. The photograph is sent by Mr. Arthur Inkersly, of San Francisco.

Huge Ant Nest.

A huge white ants' nest has been received and placed on exhibition at the American Museum. The termites' nest here figured was obtained by Professor R. P. Whitfield in Graytown, near Nassau, New Providence Island, of the Bahamas group. It is three and one-half feet high and five and one-half feet in circumference. The insect architects



constructed it on an old cedar stump in a pineapple field. It is composed of vegetable mould, found in the coral cavities of the island. The settlers encourage the propagation of these ants as food for chickens. The termites, however, are equally useful and injurious. They clear the fields of dead wood, but at the same time destroy woodwork and posts.

Trees Record The Weather

Rings in trees indicate something more than mere growth. For it has been discovered that they are excellent records of the weather during each year of the tree's life. Some one has declared that trees feel and think, and poets have said that they speak; but this has to do merely with the dumb records shown by any patch of the forest. The experiment of J. Kuehler has shown that trees carry on their trunks a record of weather conditions that have prevailed during the successive years of their growth. Several trees, each more than one hundred and thirty years old, were felled, and the order and relative width of the rings of growth on their trunks were found to agree exactly. This fact showed that all the trees had experienced the same stimulation in certain years.

Assuming that the most rapid growth had occurred in the wet years and the least rapid in dry years, it was concluded that out of the 134 years covered by the life of the trees six had been extremely wet, sixty very wet, eighteen wet, seventeen average as to the supply of moisture, nineteen dry, eight very dry and six extremely dry. But when the records of rainfall running back as far as 1840 were consulted it was found that they did not entirely agree with the record of the trees.

The conclusion was therefore reached that the record of the rings contained more than a mere index of the annual rainfall; that it showed what the character of the seasons had been as to sunshine, temperature, evaporation, regularity or irregularity of the supply of moisture and the like.

Edward's Family Name.

That monarchs have family names every one knows, but the exact manner in which they should be spelled is known to very few. A British genealogist has recently taken much pains to discover the correct manner of spelling King Edward's family name, and, after searching for a long time in the royal archives, he says that if the British King were a private gentleman he would have to be addressed as Mr. Wente, that being the original name of the Saxe-Coburg family.

A MOUNTAIN OF FLESH.



Chauncey Morlan, who was born in Indianapolis 31 years ago, grew to be probably the fattest man in the world. At the time this photograph was taken he weighed 448 pounds, was five feet ten inches in

height, and was almost as broad as he was long. His arm measured twenty-six inches, his chest eighty-four, waist ninety, thigh fifty-four, calf twenty-six inches. He wore a number twenty-four collar and a seven and a half hat.

LOST HIS HEAD AND THEN FOUND IT.



It is common for a man to "lose his head" in love and in business affairs, but it is a much more serious calamity in China, where a sword is used for the operation. The decapitation shown herewith, of course, was

not done with a sword. The camera performed the work just as effectively and infinitely more artistically. The gentleman pictured represents the psychological process in which a man loses

his own head and then naturally restores it to himself. The photograph is the work of an amateur in Fall River, Mass., who has been following photography for scarcely a year.

SLEDDING DOWN A TROPICAL MOUNTAIN.



The only place in the world where a sled is used for travelling on dry land without any snow to help is the Island of Madeira. There is a mountain on the island about five hundred feet high, very picturesque, and visitors usually climb it for the sake of the view. They are carried up by a steam railroad, but the method of coming down is different.

It takes quite a little time to make the ascent, but the descent is accomplished in less than five minutes by what is called the

"gravity railroad," which is simply a sled with a basket on it big enough to hold two persons, which is guided down the mountain by two men, who, with the help of ropes, steer it skilfully around the curves of a very serpentine path. This is done with such rapidity that the bottom is reached in about five minutes. It is quite an exciting trip, and not particularly comfortable, inasmuch as the winding path is paved with cobblestones.

Tyrolean Mask.

In the little village of Imst, in the Tyrol, a curious old German custom, which never fails to attract hosts of travellers, still survives. Here once every three years the inhabitants put on quaint and singular wooden masks and extraordinary costumes and parade the town, to the accompaniment of all manner of fun and frolic, the symbolic intent



being the celebration of summer's victory over winter.

This year the celebration drew many thousands of visitors to Imst. The procession was headed by several men wearing masks and headpieces similar to the remarkable example here shown. These headpieces, which weighed several pounds each, consisted of great wreaths of flowers plentifully besprinkled with tiny bells.

FOREST FREAK: A SNOW WHITE DEER.



This is a picture of an albino, or white, deer that was recently shot by Mr. G. W. Donnell, of Grant's Pass, Ore., in the pine forests of Cow Creek Canon. The skin of this freak has been handsomely mounted, and it will probably be sent to the Smithsonian Institution, or to some other large museum in the East. Many applications have already been made for the animal.

It is one of the very few white deer that

have been found in the West. The animal is like all other deer as to form and build, but the remarkable feature is the color of the hair, which is pure white. The eyes are pink, corresponding in every respect to the albino of the human race.

At the time the freak was killed it was with two ordinary deer, and had it not been for this the hunter would not have known it to be a deer.

High Priced Relics.

Some of Lamartine's hair was recently offered for sale, and, though a large price was asked for it, a purchaser was speedily found. Commenting on this fact, a noted collector points out that all such relics have a market value.

"Nero," he says, "paid 300,000 sesterces (about \$4,000) for a robe which had belonged to Cato. In our time a vest which once belonged to Jean Jacques Rousseau was sold for \$250, and his watch, a cheap copper affair, fetched \$100. Moreover, one of his admirers paid \$300 for his barometer, the intrinsic value of which was very little. A Paris physician paid \$100 for Voltaire's famous cane, and a small piece of parchment on which Boileau used to write his musical compositions while he was traveling was sold to a collector for \$25.

The wig worn by Kant, the illustrious philosopher, though moth-eaten, fetched \$40, and Sterne's wig, which was in good condition, was sold in London for \$1,000. For Descartes' skull \$250 was paid, in Stockholm, and, surprising though it may seem, the large sum of \$3,300 was actually paid for one of Newton's teeth.

Some Small Realms.

In four hours and forty minutes, says a Berlin geographer, a person can walk across the territories of seven German States.

Start at Steinbach, in Bavaria, he explains, and go next to Liechtenstein, in Sax-Meiningen. This journey will occupy half an hour, and in another hour and a half you will arrive at Rauschenhausen, which is in the Principality of Reuss.

After walking for another forty minutes you will reach Gelnhausen, in the Duchy of Hesse, and half an hour later you will find yourself on territory belonging to the younger branch of the Reuss house. Leaving that point you will next arrive at Dornitz on Prussian territory, and if you continue to walk for another half hour you will find yourself in the Duchy of Altenburg.

Odd New Woman.

Even in far away Singapore the "emancipation movement" has been welcomed by femininity. Here is a "new woman" of the East, as described by a recently returned traveler:

"She wore a man's hat, collar and shirt, and her coat was of masculine cut. She wore bloomers, too; and from the knee down attired herself in nothing but two



rings on her toes. This emancipated one was mounted on a diamond frame bicycle. She also smoked a cigarette and appeared to enjoy her newly acquired liberty immensely."

At the government pawnshop in Paris about 500,000 watches and 60,000 wedding rings are deposited every year.

There are nearly 80,000 Welsh residents in Liverpool, where it is proposed to found a Celtic chair at the University College.

RAREST FUR COAT IN THE WORLD.

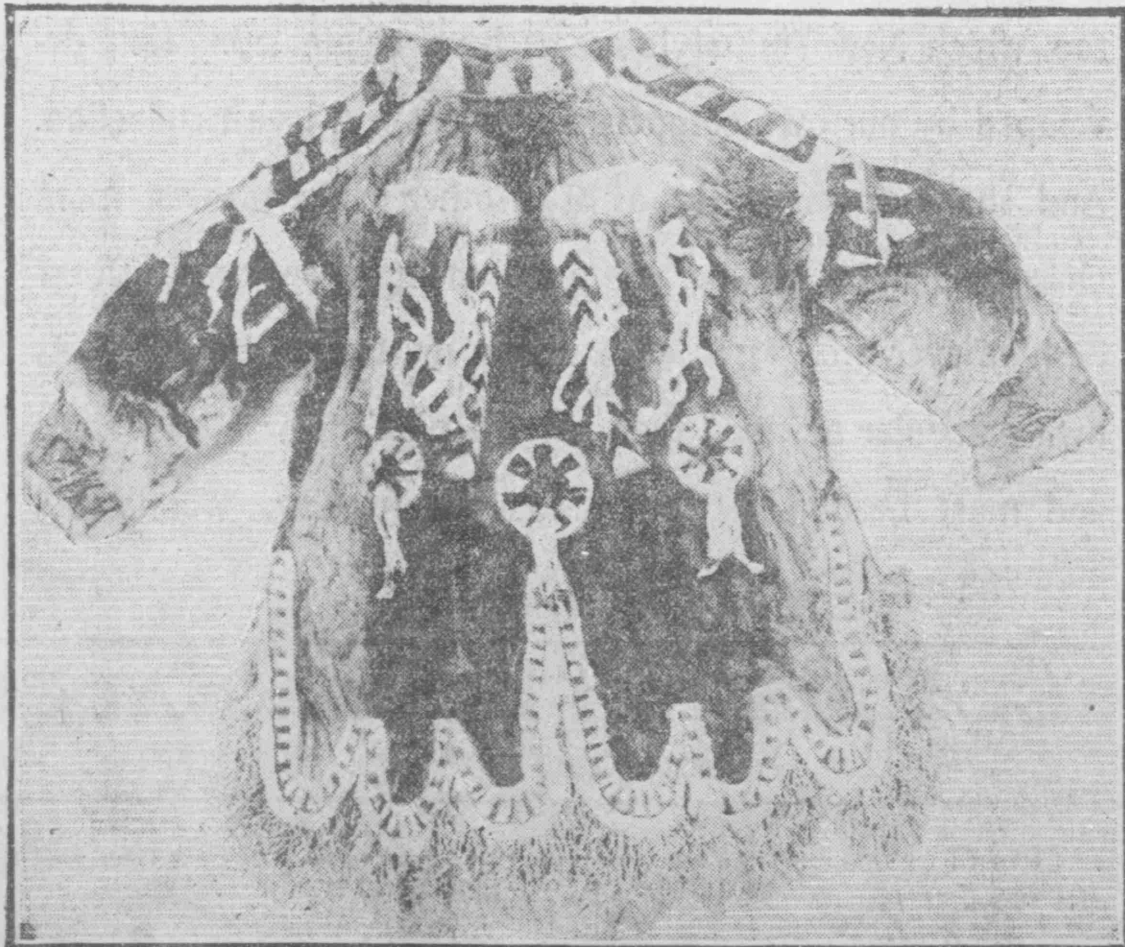
Shamanism, or belief in spirits who act as protectors, is the religion entirely around the Arctic Circle, of Eskimos, the Athabascan Circle, of Alaska and the natives of Siberia. The American Museum, therefore, considers itself fortunate that it has secured from Hudson Bay and placed on exhibition the only British Eskimo Shaman coat ever found. It forms a connecting link between the Eskimo tribes of the British and certain Siberian tribes, resembling the coats of

the priests of the latter tribes in several details.

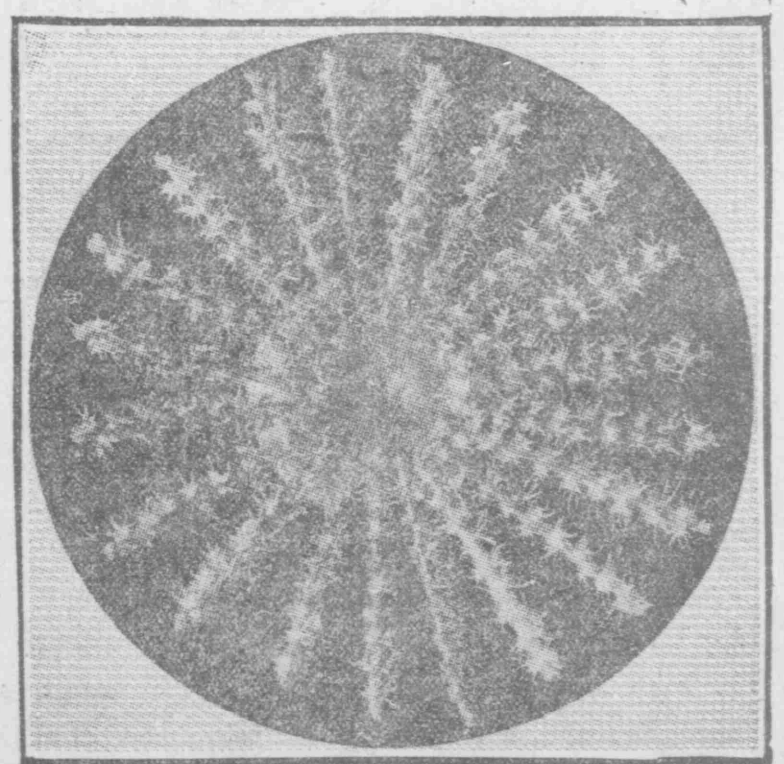
It should be stated in passing that the Shaman priests of the Athabascan or Alaskan Indian tribes wear robes or highly decorated blankets, rather than garments. The coat is made of caribou skin, ornamented with figures cut out of the white skin from the foot of the caribou. It has circles of alternating stripes of white and black fur, similar to Siberian Chukchee and Korvak

decorations, and it is suggestive to get such a specimen from Hudson Bay, so far away from the Asiatic coast.

The decorations of white caribou skin comprise two hands, indicating that no supernatural being can touch the Shaman; figures of bears, portending the guardian spirits of the priest; while the figure of an infant refers to a vision in which the Shaman was endowed with supernatural power.



MOST BEAUTIFUL HEAD.



Venus had the most beautiful head in all the world, real or fictitious. It is the belief of the ancients that the head of Venus was the most beautiful of all heads, and that the Venus shell was the most beautiful of all shells. The Venus shell is a masterpiece of nature's art, and its beauty is unmatched by any other shell in the world. The Venus shell is a masterpiece of nature's art, and its beauty is unmatched by any other shell in the world.

which shows the pattern in all its marvelous delicacy and grace. It resembles somewhat those wonderful crystals formed by the snow god which when into a single world of symmetry under the microscope. That nature is a matchless designer goes without saying, whether in the realms of air, under the earth or deep in the sea. This is one of her most enchanting designs surely.